

**UNAPPROVED**

**DODDBHH Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
Friday May 18, 2022 12:00-3:00 PM  
Crossroads Conference Center  
Michigan and Huron Room  
6611 Clay Avenue  
Grand Rapids, MI 49548**

**Council Members Present**

- Jill Gaus, Chair
- Gerid Adams
- Louis Bailey
- Sue Caudell
- Teddy Dorsette
- Terri Gordinier
- Liliana Herbstreith
- Chris Hunter
- Hannah Johnson
- Teresa Miracle
- Karlee Wascher

**Council Members Absent**

- Hannah Johnson
- Ariel Pscheidl
- Matthew Stephens

**DODDBHH Staff**

- Annie Urasky, Director
- Alayna Lail, Liaison

**MDCR Staff**

- Tyra Khan, MDCR Disability Rights and Compliance Director

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Jill Gaus, Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (the Division) Advisory Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:03pm and welcomed everyone. Housekeeping policies and roll call was taken by Director Annie Urasky and ten council members were present at the start of the meeting. There was a quorum to host the meeting. Chair Gaus asked Council Member Adams to read the Communication Policy. Chair Gaus read the Oath of Office and swore in three new Council Members and one re-appointed Council Member) (Council Members Dorsette, Herbstreith, Miracle and Wascher).

## **2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND AGENDA**

Council Member Caudell made a motion to accept the May 2023 agenda as written. Council Member Gordinier seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

Council Member Hunter made a motion to accept the October 2022 meeting minutes as written. Council Member Miracle seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

## **3. TYRA KHAN, SERVICE ANIMAL PRESENTATION**

Tyra Khan, MDCR Disability Rights and Compliance Director provided a presentation on ADA Service Animal training to Council members.

## **4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Urasky welcomed the new Council members and thanked them for their commitment to serve on the Council and that the Division is looking forward to working with them. Director Urasky reported on recent Division activities, commending the steadfast work of Alayna Lail in providing self-advocacy trainings to various DHH K-12 programs throughout the state and her work on scheduling future trainings for the next school year, including events for parents. DODDBHH wants to expand outreach for these K-12 trainings so please contact Alayna Lail if interested in training for educational programs. Reports also included information on recent hires; their current projects (Kathryn Walterhouse, student assistant and Emily Lackey, DODDBHH Summer Intern), attendance at recent events such as the MDE-LIO Building Connections for a Brighter Future conference, upcoming activities for the PEHI rural medical interpreting grant program under Idaho State University, and upcoming MDCR events including the 2023 Civil Rights Summit in Novi which will focus on different topics related to discrimination in health. Director Urasky will also be reaching out to new council members to schedule a June virtual meeting on their orientation. Director Urasky also requested council members to decide on two key focuses for the Council to select as priorities for future meetings (i.e.: senior citizen issues or voting rights). Director Urasky also reported on upcoming plans for communications with community members including newsletter posts.

## **1. COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **Chair Gaus**

Chair Gaus reported on the upcoming DeafBlind Youth Retreat and this year will focus on deafblind youth aged 14-26 for four days on August 24-27, 2023. Chair Gaus is working with BSBP (Leah Avant) DeafBlind Central (Beth Kennedy) and HKNC (Council Member Wascher) on planning efforts for this year. Chair Gaus shared a flyer with information about the DeafBlind Youth Retreat. Chair Gaus also shared information about the DeafCAN SSP grant program she currently oversees. That grant program has been extended. A DeafBlind adult resident in Michigan can apply to receive SSP service for 4 hours a month. The SSPs who work with DeafBlind residents are paid \$20 an hour. Chair Gaus also shared information about DeafBlind Central services focused on youth and babies who are deafblind and encouraged people to contact DODDBHH or Chair Gaus if you know of any deaf blind students in K-12 schools. Chair Gaus also shared information about the local Red Cross coming to her home to install a free smoke detector, which are supposed to be replaced every 10 years. The Red Cross in your area will give free strobe smoke detectors to Michiganders who are deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing.

### **Council Member Adams**

Council Member Adams provided updates on efforts for the Let MI Child Hear bill, which includes hopes to introducing the bill again this legislative term, with a possibility of splitting the bill with bipartisan support. Council Member Adams also acknowledged this year is Chair Gaus's last year as Chair and asked for information on the Chair selection process for the next Chair in 2024.

### **Council Member Bailey**

Council Member Bailey indicated he had no report.

### **Council Member Caudell**

Council Member Caudell indicated she would be happy to share information with the Council about any DHH camps and scholarships that she has received from MDE-LIO and Michigan Hands and Voices.

### **Council Member Dorsette**

Council Member Dorsette shared he was happy to be appointed to this Council, is excited to serve with the other Council members and looks forward to this journey. He also mentioned he serves as current president for the Michigan Coalition on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing.

### **Council Member Gordinier**

Council Member Gordinier indicated she had no report but would like information on the DHH camps from Council Member Caudell to share with Michigan School for the Deaf staff.

### **Council Member Herbstreith**

Council Member Herbstreith reported she would be interested in working on sharing information about deaf community events and DODDBHH activities within the Hispanic and Latino communities.

**Council Member Hunter**

Council Member Hunter indicated he had no report.

**Council Member Miracle**

Council Member Miracle reported she was looking forward to working with all the Council members on key issues within the deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing communities for positive change.

**Council Member Wascher**

Council Member Wascher indicated she had no report.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Gaus indicated a three-minute timeline will be set for each person providing public comment, and one person requested to speak. Jeanette Johnson, Communications Director for Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf spoke about the upcoming national RID conference in Baltimore, Maryland on July 26-30, 2023. CEUs will be provided for legal, educational, medical, deafblind-focused topics.

**3. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS****President of MDA**

There is no report from MDA.

**President of HLAA-MI**

There is no report from HLAA-MI.

**President of MIRID**

There is no report from MIRID.

**4. LARA-BCHS**

Colleen Curtis and Heather Hosey from the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Community Health Systems (LARA-BCHS) provided an overview on LARA-BCHS activities. LARA-BCHS oversees sign language interpreter applications, renewals, and BEI testing. There are 3 full-time employees focused on interpreters and LARA-BCHS recently posted a position for a HR Developer. There are over 1,000 certified interpreters in Michigan. Renewals for RID certified interpreters are coming up soon on June 30. There is no longer a backlog on BEI testing. The Board of Interpreters have three new appointed members, James Cech, Rowan O'Dougherty and Linda Skyora. The next two board meetings are scheduled for August 9, 2023 at 10 am and October 25, 2023 at 10am, both at LCC-West in Lansing. The Board of Interpreters has a rules subcommittee working on revising the administrative rules, which will involve public input. The goal of the rules revision is to ensure the rules are clearly understandable by community members and interpreters. Additional plans for future efforts include plans to update the interpreter directory which will depend on funding sources and offer communications from LARA-BCHS in ASL.

**5. OLD BUSINESS*****NG911 and Text to 911***

Director Annie Urasky reported on updates on Next Generation 911 and Text to 911

options in Michigan. The Division previously worked with the NG911 subcommittee under the Michigan State Police to increase awareness of the need for Text to 911 options in counties across Michigan. Director Urasky asked Council Members to contact her directly if interested in being involved in the Text to 911 information campaign.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### *September 2023 Meeting Date Change*

Chair Gaus is unavailable for the Friday September 15, 2023 meeting date so the next possible option based on availability was Friday October 13, 2023.

Council Member Hunter made a motion that the next scheduled DODDBHH Advisory Council Meeting be moved from Friday September 15, 2023 to Friday October 13, 2023. Council member Dorsette seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

### *Resolutions (National Deaf History Month, Better Hearing and Speech Month, DeafBlind Awareness Week, Disability Pride Month, ADA 33rd Anniversary)*

Director Urasky suggested Council Members consider adopting resolutions to formally recognize different cultural and national historical months of interest to the deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing community which will tie into council visibility and social media efforts.

Council Member Dorsette made a motion that the DODDBHH Advisory Council recognize and acknowledge the following resolutions (National Deaf History Month, Better Hearing and Speech Month, DeafBlind Awareness Week, Disability Pride Month, ADA 33rd Anniversary) Council member Miracle seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Bailey made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Council Member Dorsette seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

Chair Gaus thanked all the accommodation providers and members who attended the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:58pm.